



# Libby Asbestos Superfund Site OU1 Remedial Design

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION 8**

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This fact sheet describes EPA's plans for cleanup actions at Operable Unit 1 (OU1), formerly known as the Export Plant.

## Introduction

OU1 of the Libby Asbestos Superfund site covers roughly 17 acres on the south side of the Kootenai River, just north of the downtown area of the City of Libby, Montana. From the early 1960s to approximately 1990, OU1 was used for stockpiling and distributing vermiculite concentrate to W.R. Grace's plants and customers nationwide. From 1977 to 1997, organized youth baseball events were held at ball fields on the property. From 1987 to 2000, the Millwork West Company, a retail lumberyard and building material supplier, leased part of the site. Other uses of the site reportedly included a metal scrap dealer and a larch tree gum manufacturer.

The Libby Asbestos Site was listed on the National Priorities List (NPL) in October 2002. Multiple investigations, pre-removal sampling, and three removals have been implemented at OU1.

OU1 is divided into Area 1 (former Export Plant), Area 2 (Riverfront Park), and Area 3 (Highway 37 and City Service Road

embankments). Each of the three areas will require some level of response action.

The Remedial Action is designed to ensure that any remaining Libby amphibole asbestos (LA) at OU1 is removed and/or covered, and that the implemented controls continue to operate as intended to protect human health and the environment.

The project includes the following elements: 1) excavation of soil and materials to remove LA sources; 2) installation of a clean fill or protective cover; and 3) restoration to accommodate future development and site use. The primary goals of the project are:

- *Remove LA source materials as necessary to install protective barriers*
- *Provide durable protective barriers to protect human health and the environment*
- *Produce a visually appealing, multi-use site*

## Remove Source Materials

OU1 surfaces currently contain areas of detectable LA and/or visible LA source contamination.

**Area 1:** Some locations of Area 1 will be excavated to a maximum depth below ground surface (bgs) of 3 feet ('). The former Export Plant, utility corridors, storm drainage corridors, and proposed City Service Road locations will be excavated, and

asphalt surfacing from the existing City Service Road and Spur Road will be removed.

**Area 2:** Areas with detectable levels of LA and/or visible LA source contamination will be excavated to varying depths at Riverfront Park, the former boat launch, and along the riverbank.

**Area 3:** Areas with detectable levels of LA and/or visible LA source contamination will be excavated to 6 inches (") bgs along road embankments, and the area below the Highway 37 bridge will be excavated to depths of 12-18" bgs.

## Provide Durable Protective Barriers

Excavated areas in OU1 will be backfilled with clean fill.

**Area 1:** Area 1 surfaces will be backfilled with common fill and topsoil; and will replace the asphalt road surfacing and parking areas with structural fill (gravel). The City of Libby will be responsible for replacement of permanent paving

**Area 2:** Riverfront Park areas of excavation will be backfilled by EPA's contractor with 12" of common fill and 6" of topsoil. A permanent boat launch will be installed from the top of the former boat launch to the existing concrete pad. Rip rap will be installed along sections of the river bank to prevent further erosion and damage to areas.

**Area 3:** Areas of excavation along road embankments will be backfilled by the contractor with 12" of common fill and topsoil.

These protective barriers ensure that: 1) allowed public activities do not compromise the integrity of the

installed clean cap; and 2) OU1 users are protected from potential exposure to any remaining subsurface LA.

## Produce a Visually Appealing, Multi-Use Site

The site will be final graded and restored with grasses, gravel, and rip rap. These activities are designed to produce an aesthetically pleasing and functional space, and will allow for future uses such as boating, search and rescue training, outdoor events, weddings, and City maintenance.

Please be aware that access to OU1 will be limited during project activities.

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Or please visit the following Website:  
[www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/libby](http://www.epa.gov/region8/superfund/libby)

The following is a conceptual design of OU1 which details the proposed final layout of the site

